a fee be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1868.

In the Specification

Please delete figures 9, 10 and 11, and amend the specification as follows:

Page 11, delete lines 15-32.

Page 12, delete lines 1-5.

Page 61, delete line 8 and line 9, "enrichment step."

Page 64, line 13, delete ""(Figure 10)".

Page 65, line 1, delete "(Figure 11)".

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-5.

6. (amended) ~~A~~ diagnostic test to predict the risk of developing lupus comprising

reagents which can be used to detect levels of antibodies to Epstein-Barr virus, indicators of Epstein-Barr infection of cells, or levels of Epstein-Barr DNA or protein in a patient, and

control samples from individuals not at risk of developing [an autoimmune disease] lupus, and

means for determining the differences in levels of a patient and control samples to distinguish individuals at higher risk of developing [an autoimmune disease] lupus from those at lower risk of developing [an autoimmune disease] lupus.

7. (amended) The diagnostic test of claim 6 wherein the reagents are used in assays selected from the group of assays

based upon the relative presence of an antibody, assays based on cellular proliferation, assays based on molecular binding, assays based on cytokine production, assays based on skin reaction, [or] and assays based on cell surface antigen.

8. (amended) The diagnostic test of claim 6 wherein the reagents [are] used to detect antibodies to peptides from Epstein-Barr virus are selected from the group consisting of PPPGRRP (SEQ ID NO:1), GRGRGRGG (SEQ ID NO:2), RGRGREK (SEQ ID NO:3), GAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGA (SEQ ID NO:7), GPQRRGGDNHGRGRGRGRGGGRPG (SEQ ID NO:98), GGSGSGPRHRDGVRRPQKRP (SEQ ID NO:25), RPQKRPSC (SEQ ID NO:26), QKRPSCIGCKGTHGGTG (SEQ ID NO:27), GTGAGAGARGRGG (SEQ ID NO:99), SGGRGRGG (SEQ ID NO:100), RGGSGGRRGRGR (SEQ ID NO:101), RARGRGRGRGEKRPRS (SEQ ID NO:102), SSSSGSPPRRPPPGR (SEQ ID NO:103), RPPPGRRPFFHPVGEADYFEYHQEG (SEQ ID NO:104), PDVPPGAI (SEQ ID NO:33), PGAIEQGPA (SEQ ID NO:34), GPSTGPRG (SEQ ID NO:105), GQGDGGRRK (SEQ ID NO:37), DGGRRKKGGWFGKHR (SEQ ID NO:38), GKHRGQGGSN (SEQ ID NO:106), GQGGSNPK (SEQ ID NO:107), NPKFENIA (SEQ ID NO:108), RSHVERTT (SEQ ID NO:109), VFVYGGSKT (SEQ ID NO:110), GSKTSLYNL (SEQ ID NO:111), GMAPGPGP (SEQ ID NO:46), PQPGPLRE (SEQ ID NO:47), CNIRVTVC (SEQ ID NO:48), RVTVCSFDDG (SEQ ID NO:49), PPWFPPMVEG (SEQ ID NO:50).

Please cancel claims 11-18.

19. (amended) A method for determining the likelihood that an individual has [an autoimmune disorder] lupus induced by Epstein-Barr virus, or is at risk for developing [such an autoimmune disorder] lupus, comprising

obtaining a sample from the individual to be tested,

mixing the sample with reagents which can be used to detect levels of antibodies to Epstein-Barr virus, indicators of Epstein-Barr infection of cells, or levels of Epstein-Barr DNA or protein in a patient,

analyzing the sample, and

comparing the analysis of the sample with results obtained with control samples from individuals not at risk of developing [an autoimmune disease] lupus to determine if the differences in levels of the individual and control samples indicates the individual is at a higher risk of developing [an autoimmune disease] lupus than controls who are at lower risk of developing [an autoimmune disease] lupus.

20. (amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the reagents are used in assays selected from the group of assays based upon the relative presence of an antibody, assays based on cellular proliferation, assays based on molecular binding, assays based on cytokine production, assays based on skin reaction, [or] and assays based on cell surface antigen.

21. (amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the reagents [are] used to detect antibodies to peptides from Epstein-Barr virus are selected from the group consisting of PPPGRRP (SEQ ID NO:1), GRGRGRGG (SEQ ID NO:2), RGRGREK (SEQ ID NO:3), GAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGA (SEQ ID NO:7), GPQRRGGDNHGRGRGRGRGGGRPG (SEQ ID NO:98), GGSGSGPRHRDGVRRPQKRP (SEQ ID NO:25), RPQKRPSC (SEQ ID NO:26), QKRPSCIGCKGTHGGTG (SEQ ID NO:27), GTGAGAGARGRGG (SEQ ID NO:99), SGGRGRGG (SEQ ID NO:100), RGGSGGRRGRGR (SEQ ID NO:101),

RARGRGRGRGEKRPRS (SEQ ID NO:102), SSSSGSPPRRPPPGR (SEQ ID NO:103), RPPPGRRPFFHPVGEADYFEYHQEG (SEQ ID NO:104), PDVPPGAI (SEQ ID NO:33), PGAIEQGPA (SEQ ID NO:34), GPSTGPRG (SEQ ID NO:105), GQGDGGRRK (SEQ ID NO:37), DGGRRKKGGWFGKHR (SEQ ID NO:38), GKHRGQGGSN (SEQ ID NO:106), GQGGSNPK (SEQ ID NO:107), NPKFENIA (SEQ ID NO:108), RSHVERTT (SEQ ID NO:109), VFVYGGSKT (SEQ ID NO:110), GSKTSLYNL (SEQ ID NO:111), GMAPGPGP (SEQ ID NO:46), PQPGPLRE (SEQ ID NO:47), CNIRVTVC (SEQ ID NO:48), RVTVCSFDDG (SEQ ID NO:49), PPWFPPMVEG (SEQ ID NO:50).

Please cancel claims 23-26.

Remarks

Objections to the Specification

Pages 38, 44 and 53 of the Specification are blank due to the use of a page end immediately before a table. Please advise if the examiner would like a substitute specification submitted, renumbering the pages to delete pages 38, 44 and 53.

It is unclear what the problem is with page 62. Please provide more detail on what does not comply with the formatting requirements and a substitute page will be provided.

Sequence Listing

The revised sequence listing was mailed on April 19, 2001.

Formal Drawings

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S.S.N. 08/781,296. Figures 1-8E referred to in the specification are the same as the drawings in the parent application. Copies are enclosed. As noted in the specification at page 9, lines 15-16 and 23-24, page 10, lines 11-12 and 30-31 to page 11, line 1, Figures 1-6 were also in the published in the scientific literature. In the